

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

VIETNAM

31 January 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.46/2001

Appeal Target CHF 3,252,400

Programme Update No. 2 Period covered: 1 July to 31 October

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 65.8%

Related Appeals: South east Asia regional programmes 01.40/2001

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,113,012

Update: Donor support has been reasonably good and much progress has been achieved in support of vulnerable people. An excellent working relationships between the National Society and the Federation helped consolidate assistance to those in need.

Operational Developments:

The economic reforms in Vietnam, already underway for several years, continue at a stable pace, adapting to the realities, priorities and the possibilities of the country.

In November 2001, the bilateral trade agreement between Vietnam and the USA was confirmed by the relevant American legislative bodies. It will subsequently have to be reconfirmed by the National Assembly of Vietnam. This agreement, once it is in full force, should enhance and speed up Vietnam's admission to the WTO.

Floods in the Mekong River delta, similar to those in year 2000 albeit somewhat less severe, have affected the population in several Provinces in the southern part of Vietnam. In October the Vietnam Red Cross Society (VNRC) launched a National Appeal with the support of the Federation to assist the most vulnerable.

Disaster Response:

Although not part of the Appeal, the National Society has been involved in a CHF 5.5m disaster response operation in the Mekong Delta provinces (see Appeal and Situation Reports) since late 2000. This programme was completed in November 2001 and a final report on the operation will be issued in February 2002.

In response to the flooding in the Mekong Delta provinces in late 2001 the Federation delegation (specifically DP with assistance from the regional delegation) facilitated and supported the development of a VNRC National Emergency Appeal. The Appeal was finalised and launched in October 2001 and attracted not only National support but also significant support from the International community both inside and outside Vietnam. The decision to follow standard Federation procedures for the Appeal was widely accepted as being a very positive step in the development process of the VNRC. The continuing operation and appeal process will be further supported and facilitated by the Federation in country delegation until its cessation.

Organisational Development:

The VNRC National Congress confirmed a five year strategy outlining VNRC priorities in the area of organisational development. This document indicates VNRC's strong commitment to strengthen its position further and become a well-functioning society. The Federation's programme assistance in the coming years will be based on this strategy. A priority for the coming months is to discuss and develop more detailed strategies and plans for Federation support. Reviews and lessons learnt from previous OD assistance initiatives will be incorporated.

A VNRC delegation, led by the VNRC Vice President and Director for Personnel and Organisation, visited the Swedish Red Cross in September. The purpose of the visit was to learn and exchange experiences between the two societies, specifically looking at Capacity Building and Social Welfare. Members of the delegation represented the Social Welfare, Inspection, Administration and International Relations departments.

The VNRC Director of International Relations and a member from the Fund-raising Dept participated in the XI Conference of Secretary Generals and Leaders of South East Asia RC/RC Societies, which was held in Phnom Penh in October 2001. VNRC also participated in the related Regional OD Review Workshop, which was organised in connection to the Conference.

Objective 1

To strengthen key operational departments of the national headquarters of the VNRC so that they can better respond to the needs of the Provincial Chapters.

Activities & Achievements

VNRC is increasingly strengthening its capacity and has managed to recruit new staff members to some key departments.

Federation technical support to VNRC departments within the area of programme development and management, centred on Disaster Management and Preparedness and Social Welfare/Health continues. This support is focused through peer support on a day-to-day basis, and in addition training courses, workshops and exchange visits for key staff. Progress is evident as these departments being more confident and managing programmes and activities with less involvement and support from the delegation.

The Training/Dissemination/Youth dept have a key role as a focal point for HR development and training activities (promoting shared values, safeguarding a consistent and participatory approach in training and providing assistance to other departments in this area). Federation assistance focuses on strengthening the capacity of this department & its staff members in training needs assessments methodology and result analysis. A survey has been initiated at HQ level and in all 61 provinces to map out what training has already been provided, the quality and relevance of the training and to determine further needs. Once the survey results are available and analysed an inter departmental workshop will be held and a more comprehensive VNRC training and dissemination programme identified. It will be interesting to follow the progress in the coming months and see how this initiative can be linked in to the overall capacity building plan.

Finance development was not included as a separate activity in the appeal 2001, but is part of the overall concept for capacity building (it forms part of Appeal 2002 as a component of OD). A finance development delegate arrived in August 2001 and the process has slowly started. VNRC Finance department have submitted a draft development plan, which will be developed further and incorporated in the overall VNRC strategy for capacity building.

Constraints

The following were the main constraints:

- The lack of an overall strategic/development plan to which the sectorial plans and the work in different departments are more clearly linked to.

Objective 2

To develop a resource development function at national headquarters, so as to widen the society's donor base and thus increase income for both recurrent and operational expenditures.

Activities & Achievements

The function, (Fund-raising Dept) is established and employs two staff members, one Head of department and one programme officer. No specific activities are reported during this period.

Objective 3

To strengthen the VNRC's national human resources development function, including its motivation of staff, its promotion of the network of trainers, and its management training and development of personnel within the Society.

Activities & Achievements

VNRC have identified HR as a priority development area (capacity, effectiveness and means to develop, motivate and retain qualified staff and volunteers). VNRC continue to lobby for paid staff at commune level as well as at national, provincial and district level to provide more consistency, effectiveness and sustainability of VNRC activities at local level throughout the country. The outlook for success in their lobbying work is rather good, but there are no decisions made yet.

Salary support for HQ staff has not yet been resumed, but will be considered in the near future. VNRC has completed all formal procedures for such a support and they would like to continue as soon as possible.

VNRC has continued to strengthen its personnel management systems and has recently finalised a comprehensive document; 'Regulations on organisation performance of VNRC HQ', which includes roles and tasks of each department. VNRC will in the near future disseminate and send this to all Provincial chapters.

Constraints

The rather long interruption of the salary support.

Objective 4

To support the development of key Provincial Chapters.

Activities & Achievements

No concrete OD activities for specific provinces to report during this period. Indirectly, however, the support provided in the areas of DP, SW and Health (training programmes, support to project development etc.) contributes to the development of the provincial chapters and the Red Cross response at local level.

Objective 5

To develop a five year national strategy as part of the follow up to the National Congress of 2000.

Activities & Achievements

VNRC has developed a strategy for capacity building, outlining VNRC priorities in organisational development over the next five years. This strategy was adopted at the National Congress in August 2001. The plans for Federation's programme support to VNRC organisational development in the coming two years (Appeal 2002-3) will be based on these VNRC Priorities.

Constraints

The postponement of Congress (from early 2000 to August 2001) has of course had an impact on development of strategies and their implementation.

Disaster Preparedness:

The VNRC continues its strategy to build capacity in disaster preparedness at headquarters and throughout the country. This programme aims to: help the VNRC to develop its human resources at national, provincial and district levels (particularly in the most disaster prone provinces); strengthen its infrastructure and institutional capacity to respond to disasters; and to initiate and improve risk reduction activities in these areas.

Preliminary approaches were made to a number of existing and new donors during the quarter. These will be followed up with proposals where required as an adjunct to the Appeal 2002/03.

Human resource development (principally funded by DIPECHO, UNDP and AmCross) continued to be the priority for the period with further training workshops to complete the training of a further Red Cross staff as Provincial Trainers, bringing the total to 120 in 33 provinces of the country.

Training was also held for a selection of the VNRC National and Provincial Trainers and other staff in community based disaster management (with support from DIPECHO). Some of the National Trainers were then further involved in a joint training workshop organised with ADPC, Bangkok for 23 national programme staff from 20 INGOs and the Disaster Management Centre (of the government's Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control).

Training of Red Cross staff in the VNRC Disaster Preparedness Manual continued in three of the provinces where the mangrove programme was undertaken. A further 60 Red Cross staff were trained by the Provincial or National Trainers (Japanese Red Cross Society support).

The National Society continued its major risk reduction activity; the reforestation of mangroves, supported by the Japanese Red Cross Society. Greater emphasis was placed upon lobbying the local authorities in several provinces where replanted mangrove areas are under threat from large shrimp farming companies wishing to use the area for shrimp ponds.

Further development of the Red Cross material resources took place with Red Cross offices, river and sea rescue posts, etc. receiving support, particularly for First Aid and lifesaving equipment (procured with BRCS and DIPECHO support).

Objective 1

To assist the VNRC in the strengthening and improvement of the National Society's disaster preparedness capacity, both at the Headquarters DP Department and in high risk areas, through human resource development and capacity building.

Activities & Achievements

The office management course offered in June by CFVG (an international management training group) for all social work department staff was followed up with discussion around training needs for each staff member to address specific concerns, for instance, in technical areas, languages, computing, report writing and negotiation skills.

The training of VNRC staff as Provincial Trainers continued with a six-day workshop on Adult Training Methodology (July) for 78 participants selected in the two Selection workshop held in

May/June. The course was facilitated by VNRC National Trainers and overseen by Federation and AITCV (Asian Institute of Technology) staff.

This workshop was followed with a five-day training for the same participants in the VNRC Disaster Preparedness Manual (July) which was also conducted by the by the National Trainers. Both workshops were supported by DIPECHO and AusAID.

In August, a ten-day Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) training was conducted for National Trainers by an external CBDM consultant and the Federation Disaster Preparedness and Response PO. The course was based upon the CBDM course run annually by ADPC, Bangkok. Two days of the workshop were spent undertaking a hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment in two coastal communities in Thanh Hoa province.

Later in September, a slightly modified training in CBDM was conducted for 23 national staff of INGOs, the Red Cross and the government's Disaster Management Committee. This was part of a collaborative programme between the Federation/VNRC with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) "*Partnerships for Disaster Reduction – SEA*". The VNRC National Trainers trained earlier in August facilitated the sessions together with the Federation Disaster Preparedness/Response PO.

In the same month, two training workshops took place, one in Ho Chi Minh City for 33 participants from the Mekong Delta provinces and another, in Hanoi, for 37 participants from central and northern provinces. Both were five-day "Simulation workshops". These workshops provided opportunities for participants to practice training amongst themselves on the VNRC Disaster Preparedness Manual, using participatory methodologies that they had learnt in previous workshops. These workshops conclude the four-week training programme for the VNRC Provincial Trainers. Participants that had successfully completed were awarded a certificate as Provincial Trainers.

In October, a meeting, co-facilitated by representatives from ADPC and the Red Cross was held entitled "*Disaster Resistant Housing*". About 15 representatives attended the meeting from the UN, Government, private companies, the Red Cross, several INGOs

Two meetings, one in September and the other in October, were facilitated by the Federation/VNRC for government, UN and INGO representatives to discuss co-ordination issues during disasters and particularly the current disaster response operations in the Mekong.

Federation and VNRC disaster preparedness staff attended meeting organised by ADPC in Bangkok on "*Information Exchange and Networking*" in September.

The Director of the VNRC Social Work Department (that covers disaster preparedness and response), along with one Disaster Preparedness PO and one Federation PO attended the two-week "*Community Based Disaster Management*" training course held by ADPC in Bangkok (July). Support for this training was provided by the British Red Cross Society.

Federation DP staff undertook a short visit to the flood affected areas in two Mekong delta provinces to discuss the response operations, etc. and the next steps in the development of material for the film/video: "*Living with the floods*".

As part of the "*Living with the Floods*" initiative the Red Cross, in collaboration with UNICEF (Child Protection) developed colour booklets aimed at parents and children's to relay simple, pictorial information related to children's safety at the times of floods. This was in response to the alarmingly high figures noted this year and last in child mortality. 50,00 of each booklet were produced and are being distributed during October/November in six Mekong Delta provinces that were worst effected by the floods.

Some items, such as cameras, resuscitation mannequins, oxygen equipment and other First Aid materials/equipment were purchased for distribution to Red Cross offices in the most disaster prone provinces (under DIPECHO funding).

For the establishment of a global information system (GIS) for the SW department, contacts further information (to identify what will be the most appropriate and useful system for the Red Cross) was gained.

Constraints

The following were the main constraints:

- Competencies and skills of the staff the SW department needs to be developed
- Staffing shortage at headquarters (no deputy director for the DP/Response section has been appointed and a further two staff are needed to manage the workload)

Objective 2

To assist the VNRC with the development of on going, sustainable risk reduction activities.

Activities & Achievements

During the CBDM workshop held in August for VNRC National Trainers, training in hazard, vulnerability, capacity, risk and hazard assessment was undertaken. Two assessments were undertaken in disaster prone communes in Thanh Hoa and later in Binh Dinh provinces. These essentially provided learning opportunities for key Red Cross Trainers to gain experience that can be built upon for further assessments to be undertaken.

In three provinces of Ha Tinh, Thanh Hoa and Binh Dinh, pilot risk reduction projects were initiated in selected communes (under the DIPECHO). These projects comprise planting bamboo or tree species around communes/villages vulnerable to high winds and storms. The Red Cross initiated work with the local communities, the People's Committees and Forestry Departments in each location (NB. bamboo/trees will be planted in the spring of 2002).

In the mangrove reforestation programme, supported by the Japanese Red Cross Society, advocacy, concerning a threat to reforested areas in two northern provinces, took up considerable time of the Red Cross disaster preparedness department. People's Committees in the provinces of Hai Phong and Thanh Hoa, came under pressure from property developers to permit the utilization of mud-lands replanted with mangroves. In Hai Phong particularly the issue drew the attention of media and has now also engaged the Japanese Embassy in the fight to ensure that reforested mangrove in Hai Phong and elsewhere are protected.

The mangrove reforestation programme further diversified with increased emphasis on capacity building in provinces where the mangrove programme was undertaken. Since July, training of approximately 60 Red Cross staff in the VNRC Disaster Preparedness Manual was completed (in Ninh Binh, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa provinces).

In all six provinces involved with the mangrove reforestation programme, disaster preparedness training of primary school teachers and subsequently teaching of school children took place. Since July, approximately 800 teachers were trained by the VNRC National and Provincial Trainers and around 23,500 children taught by these teachers using the Red Cross booklet: "An Introduction to disaster preparedness for school children" in Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ninh Binh and Quang Ninh provinces.

Constraints

The engagement of key staff of the Federation, SW department, and in the provinces in disaster response operations forced delays in training and implementation of other aspects of the disaster preparedness programme.

Health and Care:

The appeal 2001 had two sub-programmes under Health and Care section:

1) Community Based Social Work (CBSW) Programme

2) Disability Programme

1. Community Based Social Work (CBSW) Programme

It's been an intensive period with a lot of training and community activities happening. As Social Work in Vietnam, and specifically in VNRC, is focused on capacity building and empowering people, it is rewarding to see how the series of training now starts bearing fruit. Staff and volunteers in the provinces demonstrate greater confidence & report the usefulness of social work and development principles and their application in practice, to provide more long-term and sustainable assistance.

The focus of the programme has moved to local level. Social work skills, including participatory and bottom-up methods are being practised and used in the Red Cross work within the provinces. A number of community activities and mini-projects with a social work approach have started to be developed and implemented, providing useful lessons and experiences. The range of social support varies depending on the specific situation, but mostly includes education and basic health support for disadvantaged children, awareness raising/advocacy and income generating activities (family survival). Many volunteers spend time visiting families and individuals, listening and sharing their difficulties, promoting and mobilising support to those in need.

The program is entering an interesting period, expanding both training and project activities in the provinces. Positive feedback at local level has been received, and there is an increasing enthusiasm for social work and a sustainable development approach. It has also created opportunities for constructive working relations between the different levels of VNRC, where the HQ's active role in supporting and facilitating the process has been highly appreciated.

Training activities as well as small-scale projects are being evaluated separately on an ongoing basis. During this period one project in Lang Son province has been evaluated. Preparations have also been made for a Mid-term Evaluation of the 10-year CBSW programme, focusing on the more general aspects of the programme. The objectives of the Mid-Term Evaluation are:

- to find out if and to what extent the social work capacity has increased since the start of the program
- to understand and describe the impact (which includes looking at usefulness for RC staff and volunteers, possible changes in understanding, skills and attitudes, application in daily work etc)
- to document lessons learnt and give recommendation for the future.

The management structure and role between VNRC different levels will be an integrated part, as will be the role and function of VNRC partners, primarily IFRC and UNDP/UNV in relation to technical support, working relationship and funding structures. To reflect the nature of the programme, the methodology used will be participatory, using interviews and focus groups as core methods.

The International United Nations Volunteer (IUNV) finished her one year assignment with the Federation delegation at the end of September. The IUNV contribution has been extremely valuable, especially in the field of providing in-depth technical support to the VNRC training components. The 4 National UNVs placed at three different departments of VNRC (Social Welfare, Training/Dissemination and Agent Orange Victims Fund) will finish their contract periods in June next year. VNRC has asked for an extension of the UNV support. Therefore initial preparations and a draft proposal for extension have been prepared.

A Swedish film team visited Vietnam in September and worked with the delegation and VNRC for two days. The short films featuring VNRC social work activities at local level will be shown on

Swedish television in November to give feedback on how money raised by the public in Sweden has been used as well as to promote and fundraise for more assistance.

Objective 1

To raise awareness and increase the understanding about social work methods within VNRC nation-wide in order to create opportunities for more effective and sustainable responses to social needs.

Activities & Achievements

The main activity to achieve this objective is introduction of social work and community development concepts through training of key staff at district, province and national levels. During this period the following activities have been carried out:

- *Four introductory training courses for approx. 120 VNRC staff members*

Three (3) 9-day long training courses were provided for 95 key staff in three provinces (Ha Tay, Dong Thap and Thai Binh) and a week-long social work training was organised for HQ key staff from different departments to disseminate and introduce social work methods and approach. The training covered understanding of social problems, community development, working with individuals and groups (communication and team work skills).

Feedback from participants and course evaluations continue to confirm that the introductory training is useful and helps to build an understanding of a more developmental and sustainable approach in Red Cross activities. It also provides opportunities for staff from different areas, or as with the HQ training from different departments, to discuss and share experiences.

Although the training is well received, the need for further support and training has been highlighted for staff and volunteers to be able to change working style and approach and to apply participatory and development practices in reality. The expectations for the next training level, the Training of Trainers (ToT) is therefore high.

- *Review of the introductory training package.*

The Federation team, including the International UNV working at the delegation, has provided technical assistance to VNRC to review and analyse the basic training and to draft ideas for improvements and adjustments to meet the needs of Red Cross. The first part of this process has been concentrated on assessing and analysing the present training (looking at content and curricula, performance of facilitators and what are the skills and tools needed in Red Cross). It has also taken into account the need to move further from the initial academic and “professional social worker” approach to a more practical Red Cross oriented level. Work is presently being done to plan and implement the changes needed. Federation/UNV and VNRC staff followed the full introductory training in Ha Tay (see above) as a study example to complement course evaluations and reports from all other training courses.

The Federation has helped identify training opportunity in the area of community development/micro finance poverty reduction. Two staff from VNRC HQ SW dept attended a course organised by World Bank during this period.

Constraints

The process to review the basic training has not yet been finalised. Time constraints and heavy work load are the main reasons.

Objective 2

To build up the capacity in each province by training key persons in a nation-wide network of skilled Red Cross workers (ToT).

Activities & Achievements

The main activity is Training of Trainers (ToT) targeting key staff, who already attended the basic/introductory training. No ToT has been conducted during this period. However, the Federation team has assisted VNRC in:

- revision of Training of Trainers (ToT) curricula
- support to provincial trainers in training and community activities at local level

Constraints

The main constraints are the limited staffing capacity at VNRC HQ (and Federation) to support provincial trainers and resource persons in their activities and the lack of practical RC manuals and resources to be used in training.

Objective 3

To strengthen local Red Cross work by implementing grassroots level training carried out by provincial trainers/resource persons.

Activities & Achievements

As the programme has progressed successfully, focus is now moved to local level. The following activities were carried out during this period:

- 24 training courses for commune and district level in eight (8) provinces have been carried out by the provincial trainers (trained in the ToT).
- a workshop with participation of provincial trainers/resource persons from four provinces in the north of Vietnam, VNRC HQ and Federation was held in July to exchange experiences and to jointly plan and develop the training further.
- support to local level in terms of development and refinement of their training plans, curricula and training methodology.
- identification and collection of training and reference material for provinces

The Federation has worked closely with VNRC HQ in all activities, providing technical assistance and support in supporting, guiding and encouraging local level. The VNRC Social Welfare dept has established a good working relationship with the provinces, which is demonstrated in supportive communication and mutual advice. HQ and Federation have closely followed pilot trainings conducted by provincial trainers and taken part in workshops and discussions with provinces, which has provided very valuable learning experiences to be built in the further development of the CBSW Programme (training, resources and project/activity development).

Constraints

Again, the limited capacity to meet the increasing demand for support and involvement in local level activities and the lack of Red Cross oriented and practical manuals and resources.

Objective 4

To support Vietnam Red Cross personnel in applying social work skills and methods in their activities and projects.

Activities & Achievements

VNRC has continued to work with ongoing projects as well as to support local level to develop new activities using social work practices to a larger extent than before. Increasingly, the provinces that have received training now practice the skills in their daily work. It does not necessarily have to result in new projects requiring external funding. On the contrary it is hoped that most skills can be used in the local context with local contributions. VNRC HQ (with assistance from Federation) continues to support the provinces in assessing needs, developing activities for vulnerable individuals and groups in the communities, encouraging mobilisation of local resources and discussing sustainable models and activities. Assistance is presently provided in the development and/or implementation of activities in 14 provinces. Reports on these will be included in the next Update (the Annual Report).

Five new small-scale projects under development have been looked at specifically during this period. They include a poverty reduction project in Hoa Binh, support to disabled children in Vinh Yen, two water/sanitation projects in Lang Son and one project supporting vulnerable children and their families in Hai Phong.

An evaluation has been carried out for a project targeting poor ethnic minority households in three remote communes in Lang Son Province. The project aims to support poor ethnic minority households in the three poorest communes of the province by breeding anise plants for income generation and poverty reduction. The project will continue for several years, but the external (Federation/Swedish RC) project support was for the initial 18 months. This project was developed while the social work programme was still quite new and in an early phase, and can therefore be seen as a pilot project from which experiences and lessons learnt can be drawn. This was also the main focus for the evaluation process, which was led by an experienced Vietnamese social work consultant and carried out in a participatory way enhancing involvement of all different stakeholders of the project. This approach was very much appreciated and also proved to be very effective. It provided VNRC HQ and provincial chapter an opportunity to learn more about participatory evaluation techniques. The main findings and recommendations will be useful not only for Lang Son Red Cross but also for the CBSW Programme as a whole.

Constraints

Time constraints for VNRC HQ and Federation team to be able to visit and monitor local level activities as well as to gain more practical experience on how skills are turned into practice. A big constraint is also the continued lack of practical guidelines to support the local level in their work with different target groups and/or with different types of activities.

Objective 5

To develop and produce social work manuals, guidelines, training material and practical tools to guide staff and volunteers in their work.

Activities & Achievements

Training curricula for all training steps continues to be further revised and improved. Reference materials have been compiled for provincial trainers to be used in training at local level and for self-studies. The VNRC HQ activities to produce the grassroots level manual have continued to be slow and without any concrete results. Federation/UNV has drafted an outline for such a manual to contribute and to help speed up the process. While waiting for this manual, the provincial trainers have “produced” their own training material based on the already developed VNRC Social Work Manual.

Constraints

The extremely slow process to develop and finalise *practical* resources, and especially the grassroots level manual (booklet) continue to be a constraint, as it effects also the other activities of the programme. Although it is a constraint, the outlook is now promising. Already a big number of grassroots level training has been conducted and activities/projects started to be implemented. This means that there are many practical examples that can be incorporated into such a manual, making it user-friendly and applicable to real needs at local level.

Objective 6

To promote inter organisation communication and participatory approaches to all Red Cross work.

Activities & Achievements

The training provides a forum for communication and exchange between staff members of different levels or departments. The HQ social work training provided such an opportunity, which was much appreciated by the participants.

A VNRC delegation (six leaders and staff members from Personnel and Organisation, Social Welfare, Administration and International departments) visited Swedish Red Cross in September.

The focus for the trip was to establish closer links with the Swedish RC, learn and exchange experience mainly in the field of capacity building and social welfare. The VNRC delegation found the visit very useful.

Through the UNV support to the programme, it has been possible to provide assistance to VNRC Training, Dissemination and Youth department, which could play a crucial role in promoting shared values, streamlined approach and methods through the dissemination and training programmes. The assistance provided has focused on strengthening the capacity of this department, including training and technical support for its staff members in training needs assessments methodology and result analysis. The department has initiated a survey at HQ level and in all 61 provinces to map out what training has already been provided, quality and relevance of the training, further needs etc. The department plan to invite other departments to a workshop once the survey results are available and analysed.

2. Disability Project

After a long preparation and planning phase, the programme has now progressed successfully and moved in to an implementation phase. This will provide opportunities to gain practical learning experiences and models that can be shared among provinces.

The Federation has helped with monitoring of training and programme activities, and also facilitated contacts between VNRC and other potential donors/partners interested to support VNRCs work with disabled.

The Vice-Director of VNRC Agent Orange Victims Fund participated in the International Psychological Support Conference, arranged by Federation Reference Centre in Copenhagen. His participation is helping enhance the abilities of VNRC to address emotional and mental health needs of disabled people and their families. Meeting the psycho social needs of beneficiaries and their families is an area that needs to be addressed to a larger extent within this programme, as well as within other VNRC programmes (e.g. Social Work, Health, Relief/Rehabilitation).

Objective 1

Complimentary community survey and need assessment will be conducted to give a full picture on the needs of beneficiaries and community (including RC sector).

Activities & Achievements

No activities reported during this period. Main assessments were made last year, but needs are regularly updated through visits and work of local Red Cross.

Objective 2

Design appropriate response and provide assistance.

Activities & Achievements

Project activities continued in the seven pilot provinces: Ha Nam, Ha Noi, Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Thua Thien Hue, Danang and Dong Nai. Activities are intended to improve the lives of poor disabled people and include medical support, living standard raising, production promotion, literacy and education, vocational training and capacity building for Red Cross staff to assist the disabled including those who could be effected by Agent Orange.

Each of the seven provinces has completed an initial phase of service delivery as part of pilot activities. Totally 555 families and disabled people were assisted in this first phase:

- 86 people received medication treatment (12% of funds transferred)
- 46 people received wheelchairs (6,5% of funding)
- 12 people were provided with hearing aids (2,6%)
- 46 people followed education/literacy classes (4,4% of funding)
- 59 people received vocational/job training (9% of funding)
- 152 families received assistance in repair to homes/gardens (32%)

- 154 families were assisted with income generation such as receiving tools (11%)

Each province has submitted an updated and detailed plan for further activities. The Agent Orange Fund staff have discussed these proposals with provincial representatives. The proposals have been approved, and the funds for implementation have been transferred to the provinces.

Second phase plans include: 19% of funding for medical/health activities (treatment, rehabilitation, operations and mobility aids), 7,2% basic education and vocational training and 66% for home repairs and income generation assistance (family survival).

Constraints

Some provinces have lower capacity and take longer time to plan, implement and report on activities. The more experienced provinces have had to wait for these provinces to get access to further funding than others. This situation will be considered in the future.

Objective 3

To develop guidelines and leaflets for VNRC staff and volunteers working with the disabled, as well as for beneficiary families.

Activities & Achievements

No activity reported.

Objective 4

To strengthen VNRCs capacity to work with the disabled in an efficient and participatory way.

Activities & Achievements

94 VNRC staff and volunteers participated in the two seven day training courses conducted by VNRC HQ/Agent Orange Victims Fund. The content of the training included: Understanding Disabled People, Information about Dioxin and Project Management. One course was conducted in Danang with participants from Danang, Quang nam and Thua Thien Hue. The second course was held in Binh Dinh with participants from Binh Dinh and Dong Nai. Ha Nam and Ha Noi have already been trained in the first component: Raising Awareness/understanding disabled people. Training in the other two components will be provided for these two provinces within soon.

Regional Co-operation:

Whilst not part of the Appeal, the Delegation in Vietnam has continuously and actively been engaged in the regional co-operation efforts pioneered in three sub-regions, including the sub-region of Southeast Asia, with increased and more structured participation during the period under consideration. This participation has been both on the general regional management and policy level as well as on the different programmatic levels.

Co-ordination and Management:

The 7th Congress of VNRC was successfully held between 7 and 9 August 2001, after having been postponed from December 2000. The participants discussed and adopted two key documents, namely the "Evaluation on Implementation of the Objectives and Tasks in Terms of Development of the VNRC and the Movement during the 6th Term (1995-2001)", and the "Directions and Tasks for VNRC and the Movement in the 7th Term (2001-2006)". The latter were defined as follows:

1. Upholding of the reached results, increasing public awareness of humanity causes and Red Cross activities. Renovating the contents and methodology for Red Cross action.
2. Building a strong Red Cross organisation, capable to play the role of a backbone humanitarian organisation in the Vietnamese humanity front.

3. Expanding international relations based on self-reliance, exchanging working experiences, making effective use of foreign aid in the field of humanity and socio-economic development.

A new National Executive and a new National Governance were elected for the period 2001-2006, and the State President, H.E. Mr. Tran Duc Luong was nominated as, and accepted to become, the Honorary Chairman of the VNRC for the same period.

In all programme sectors of the VNRC the focus continues to be on the development of human and material resources supported by a wide range of PNSs and other major partners.

The consolidation of existing and the development of new partnerships between the VNRC and several PNSs have continued to evolve, as part of VNRC's priorities.

Objective 1

To co-ordinate development and relief assistance to the Vietnam Red Cross provided through the Movement.

Activities & Achievements

The Vietnam CAS process is still "on the agenda" of both the VNRC, the Federation Delegation and some interested partner Societies. It has, however, recently been agreed between the VNRC and the Federation that it will not be feasible to conclude a CAS for Vietnam before midyear 2002, the earliest.

As of August, the Federation Delegation is working closer, and on a more regular basis, with the PNSs currently represented in Vietnam, for the purpose of better co-ordination and streamlining of the different support to and co-operation with the VNRC.

It has been agreed with the same PNSs, and with the leadership of the VNRC, that an attempt should be made to identify suitable premises in order to co-locate the offices of all of VNRC's RC partners, situated as close as possible to the NHQ of the VNRC. Efforts in this respect have been made, and it is expected that a final solution will be found before the end of the current year. It is intended that some office space could also be made available to other partner Societies eventually considering a more permanent presence in Hanoi.

Constraints

The main constraints were:

- The fact that the 7th Congress took place in August. With several other ongoing activities and different priorities of the VNRC, including the new flood situation in the Mekong River delta, and with the different commitments of the VNRC in terms of travels abroad to national, regional and international meetings and events, any structured approach to the re-initiation of the Vietnam CAS process has been further postponed until somewhat later on in the year.

Objective 2

To assure donors that the funds contributed to programmes of the VNRC are effectively targeted and efficiently used.

Activities & Achievements

Although some improvements have been registered, challenges still remain related to getting standard reporting formats adopted by the VNRC at both the NHQ and provincial levels, as well as to ensure the timeliness of VNRC reporting. The need to pay more attention to the consistency between the narrative and the financial aspects of reports is also an issue recognised to be of extreme importance.

In the efforts to address the need for improved reporting, in general, of both the VNRC and of the Federation Delegation, technical assistance both related to the current, ongoing, planning and reporting requirements and to the further training and equipping of the VNRC with the necessary and adequate tools, is being secured through the Regional Funding, Planning & Reporting Unit, since the month of September.

Also, as of September 2001 the Federation Delegation has substantially improved its capacity to work with the VNRC on the improvement of their financial management systems, etc., with the arrival in Vietnam of a highly experienced and qualified Finance Development delegate. This work will be initiated in a structured way as of January 2002. Prior to this the priority of the delegate lie with clarifying the financial systems and standing of the Federation Delegation itself.

Constraints

The main constraints were:

- The lack of a structured and uniform approach, let alone a system, of the VNRC for the timely and comprehensive production of professionally written reports to donors.
- The fact that the Federation delegation only by midyear 2001 seriously and in a structured way started to prepare for the transfer to the VNRC of full responsibilities for the entire project cycle has meant, in practice, that these issues cannot be addressed in anything but an ad-hoc manner until early 2002.

Objective 3

To promote the work of the VNRC and its sister societies among the donor community in Vietnam, and among the domestic/international audiences of the participating societies.

Activities & Achievements

The work of both the VNRC and of the International Federation has continued to be promoted in different manners, through the national and international media outlets as well as through personal contacts with and direct mailing of pertinent informative documentation to the international and national donor community, as and when required.

With the arrival in Vietnam of a new Head of the Federation Delegation, additional opportunities to highlight the work of the Federation and its Vietnamese member Society (VNRC) have occurred.

The newly arrived HoD has met with several senior officials of the Government of Vietnam, including the Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Pham Gia Khiem, as well as with leaders of the mass organisations more relevant to the Red Cross/Red Crescent in Vietnam.

Personal meetings have taken place between the HoD and the heads of, respectively, the more prominent donor missions, the main UN agencies and other key international organisations.

The issue of the legal status of the International Federation in Vietnam has actively been re-addressed, as a matter of priority, in formal discussions with the Government of Vietnam since August. Some positive, informal feedback, indicating possible satisfactory solution to this pending issue has been received.

Constraints

The main constraints were:

- The VNRC does not yet have a very effective communications department, or even a communications strategy. Therefore, the vast majority of promotional actions vis-a-vis the international donor community have been initiated and carried out by the Federation Delegation. Although most of the time it is clear that these are on behalf of the VNRC as a member of the Federation.

Objective 4

To raise funds for VNRC operations.

Activities & Achievements

Rather than trying to raise funds for VNRC operations, *de facto*, the Federation Delegation has increasingly over the past few months encouraged the VNRC to raise funds and other support for their own operations. The Federation has continued though to provide support as required, both nationally and internationally, as part of the capacity building of the National Society.

A good example, and a first trial of the above approach was this year's floods operation. It was agreed to neither automatically nor immediately launch an international appeal, but to rather do so if/when the VNRC could not raise the necessary support for their emergency response actions locally, through national and foreign institutions.

Constraints

To date, not enough priority or attention has been given to support the VNRC's fund raising department in a structured manner, allowing for them to be fully involved in related initiatives and activities.

Objective 5

To provide on the spot support and counsel to the capacity building programme of the VNRC.

Activities & Achievements

As of July 2001, the Federation Delegation has a Programme Co-ordinator, directly responsible for co-ordination of all OD support to the VNRC, and related matters. This has helped ensure a more cohesive approach to capacity building, and should help facilitate co-ordination between all related initiatives between the Delegation and VNRC, as well as between PNSs and the VNRC.

As of September 2001, the Federation Delegation also has in place a Finance Development delegate, working closely with the VNRC and in direct co-ordination with all officers/delegates concerned.

The newly arrived HoD has started to take on an overall co-ordinating role, so as to ensure that all and any support provided to the VNRC has sufficient amount of organisational development components built in to ensure effective capacity building and sustainability.

Constraints

The main constraint continues to be the availability of the senior leadership in VNRC and their lack of time for capacity building due mainly to their multiple functions and an overload of tasks and responsibilities.

Federation Delegation:

The Federation Delegation currently comprises a team of seven delegates: HoD, Finance Development, Disaster Preparedness and Programme Co-ordinator, plus an American RC Representative/Disability delegate, in Hanoi, as well as a Programme Co-ordinator and an Australian RC Project Manager, in Ho Chi Minh City. The regional Planning/Reporting Officer is currently based in the Delegation in Hanoi.

In all there are eight national Programme Officers, three in Hanoi and four in Ho Chi Minh City.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

See individual programme sections.

Lessons Learned:

See individual programme sections.

Financial Update (see attached annex):

Outstanding needs:

Further financial support would still be welcome, belated as it would be, in order to enable us to meet the main parts of the projected Objectives of the Organisational Development programme, and for the Co-ordination & Management programme allowing for the Federation to ensure continued and efficient programme co-ordination and management.

Conclusion:

During the four months under consideration the excellent working relationships that exist between the VNRC and its various partners, including the various PNSs, the Secretariat of the International Federation and its Country and Regional delegation has, overall, contributed to further consolidate the work required to meeting the objectives set in the Appeal 2001-2002.

With the 7th Congress of the VNRC having finally taken place in August, and considering the current political and economic context in Vietnam, the newly elected senior leadership of the NS will have an excellent opportunity, and the possibility to really make a difference.

The fact that there has also been, by coincidence, a recent change in the leadership of the Federation Delegation in Vietnam, willing to fully adhere to the "Serving Leader" concept, should enhance the possibilities for even better co-operation amongst and co-ordination of the different components of the Movement operating in Vietnam.

For further details please contact: Bo Backstrom (HoD Vietnam) Phone: +844 943 8250; Fax: +844 943 6177; email: ifrcdp@hn.vnn.vn

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

John Horekens
Head
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashuira
Head
Asia & Pacific Department

Vietnam						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.46/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			31.01.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'252'399		65.8%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				555'776		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		288'861	AUD	249'894	30.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
GERMAN - RC		56'180	DEM	43'514	20.07.2001	AGENT ORANGE
CHINA, HONG KONG - PRIVATE		1'896	USD	3'319	25.06.2001	
FRENCH - PRIVATE				68'554	21.06.2001	
JAPAN - RC		382'895	USD	655'976	24.05.2001	NAT. COORD. & VNRC MANGROVE PROJECT.
NETHERLANDS - RC		2'986	USD	5'249	30.01.2001	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		1'860	NZD	1'372	28.05.2001	NATIONAL COORDINATION
PRIVATE ON LINE		200	USD	335	11.09.2001	
SWEDISH - RC		217'500	SEK	37'780	07.03.01	INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEV.
SWEDISH - RC		325'000	SEK	56'453	07.03.01	BASED SOCIAL WORK PROG.
SWEDISH - RC		82'500	SEK	14'330	07.03.01	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		652'500	SEK	109'946	21.05.2001	OD
SWEDISH - RC		775'000	SEK	131'188	21.05.2001	C B SOCIAL WORK
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		247'500	SEK	41'704	21.05.2001	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWISS - RC				30'000	13.03.01	AGENT ORANGE, DISABLED IN PROV OF QUANG-NAM
UNDP/UNV		7'000	USD	11'396	30.01.01	C B DISABILITY PROGRAMME
VIETNAM - FORD FOUNDATION		3'600	USD	5'861	13.02.01	DIRECTLY TO THE FIELD
VIETNAM - PRIVATE		2'500	USD	4'438	25.07.2001	CBFA, MANUAL FIRST AID
VIETNAM - PRIVATE				4'414	10.04.2001	
VIETNAM - PRIVATE		2'000	USD	3'248	30.10.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'034'747	CHF	62.6%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Finland	Delegate(s)			39'918		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			46'817		
Australia	Delegate(s)			17'905		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				104'640	CHF	3.2%